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MAY
NO. 211

BATMAN



ARE YOU READY FOR
Batman's
MOMENT OF TRUTH?

BATMAN

With REYNOLDS THE BOY WONDER

STORY BY: FRANK ROBBINS

ART BY: IRV NOVICK &
JOE GIELLA

THE ADVENT OF A NEW "UNDERGROUND" SCANDAL SHEET IN GOTHAM CITY CAUSES MANY A RAISED EYEBROW--AND MANY A WORRIED BROW.



FOUR CANDIDATES FOR OBLIVION / WHAT SENSATIONAL EXPOSE HAS CAUSED SUCH CONSTERNATION AND BITTER HUMOR IN THIS GAMUT OF GOTHAM CITIZENRY? HOW WILL THEY BE AFFECTED BY--

**"BATMAN'S
BIG BLOW-OFF!"**

[illegible]

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IN THE EDITORIAL OFFICES OF ITS YOUR BAG?

A REAL BEAUTY OF AN OPENING-ARTICLE, SCRIBE! BOUND TO ROCK THE SOLID CITIZENS OFF THEIR PLUSH PILLARS OF SOCIETY!



AMAN, WILL THIS EVER GRAB THE CIRCULATION AWAY FROM THOSE STUFFED-SHEETS?

BUT WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO BACK UP THE DIRT IN THIS OPENING? HOW DO WE DELIVER THE GOODS IN NEXT WEEK'S FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE?



DON'T SWEAT IT, CHIEF! BY NEXT WEEK--ONE OF THOSE FOUR SUCKERS WILL DO IT FOR US!



IS THIS ONE OF THE "SUCKERS"?



WHAT CAN WE DO TO STOP THEM, BRUCE?

TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW, DICK!



LOOK AT THIS AGAIN!

WHICH ONE IS THE REAL BATMAN? THE STARTLING DISCLOSURE APPEARS EXCLUSIVELY IN THIS PAPER NEXT WEEK! BY NARRI DUFF DUBARK - SCRIBE



OBVIOUSLY THEY'RE ALL "SHOTS-IN-THE-DARK"--EVEN TO THE INCLUSION OF BRUCE WAYNE! BUT--IT PUTS BATMAN ON THE SPOT!

I DON'T FOLLOW, SIR!
WHY DO YOU HAVE
TO REACT TO
THOSE RABID
RAVINGS?

BECAUSE SCRIBE IS FORCING MY HAND!
THINK A MOMENT-- WHO WOULD BENEFIT
MOST FROM KNOWING THE REAL
IDENTITY OF
BATMAN?

THE UNDERWORLD!
ORGANIZED CRIME!

PRECISELY! DESPITE
THEIR MANY DESPERATE
ATTEMPTS, THEY'VE
BEEN UNABLE TO
DESTROY THEIR
HEMESIS--BATMAN!

BUT IF HIS REAL
IDENTITY AS BRUCE
WAYNE IS EXPOSED,
I'M A SITTING-DUCK
FOR EVERY HOT PISTOL
IN TOWN!

PRECISELY... RIGHT BACK AT YOU,
BRUCE! SO WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY FORCE YOU TO
UNMASK YOURSELF?

THIS...

THREE INNOCENT
BYSTANDERS! IF BATMAN
DOESN'T REVEAL HIMSELF
BY NEXT WEEK, ALL FOUR
OF US BECOME--

PRIME TARGETS
FOR A HIT!

BACK IN THE PROVOCATEURS' OFFICES...

YOU CAN PLAY IT
COOL, SCRIBE--
BUT THIS PAPER
HAS TO HAVE
A PATSY BY
PRESS-TIME NEXT
WEEK! OR, WE'RE
OUT OF
BUSINESS!

CHIEF YOU
WORRY TOO
MUCH!
BATMAN
HAS TO
REVEAL
HIMSELF TO
PROTECT
THE OTHERS!
HE'S THE BOY
WITH THE BIG
CONSCIENCE!

A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGNOSTICA-
TION VERY SHREWDLY ARRIVED
AT, AS...

I'VE MADE
MY DECISION!

BEFORE THE END
OF THE WEEK, I'LL
ANNOUNCE TO THE
WORLD--THE REAL
IDENTITY OF
BATMAN!

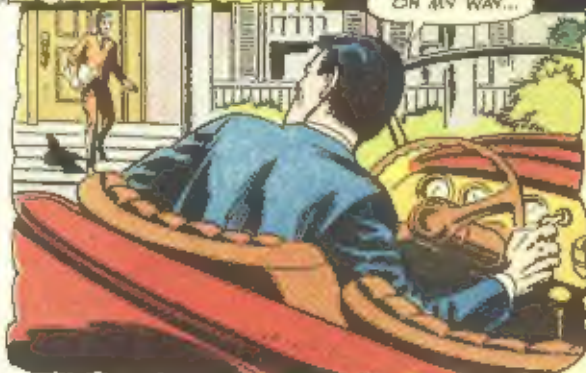


BRUCE, YOU MUST
BE KIDDING! DO
YOU REALIZE THE
CONSEQUENCES?

THE MOMENT
YOU ANNOUNCE
THAT BATMAN
IS REALLY BRUCE
WAYNE...

THE BACKLASH BOTS IN!
LET'S SAY YOU'RE LEAVING
FOR THE WAYNE FOUNDATION
ONE FINE MORNING...

HOP IN, DICK!
I'LL DROP YOU
AT SCHOOL
ON MY WAY...



"YOU SWITCH
ON THE
IGNITION
AND..."

OH-N-N...
NO...!

THERE...THERE... PRETTY
GRIM IMAGINING, DICK!

ON THE OTHER
HAND, LET'S TAKE
THE POSITIVE
SIDE!



"NO LONGER
WILL I HAVE
TO PLAY A
DOUBLE
ROLE! I CAN
TAKE MY
PLACE IN
SOCIETY AS A
CRIME-FIGHTER
AND LEADING
CITIZEN..."

FOR YEARS WE'VE WAITED
TO GIVE OUR HEARTFELT
THANKS...

MURRAN FOR BRUCE...
BATMAN... WAYNE!

IMAGINE, DICK:
NO MORE DISSEMBLING
TO PROTECT MY IDENTITY
AS BATMAN! PUBLIC
APPEARANCES--INSPIRATIONAL
TALKS TO YOUTH--

--AND PUBLIC
EXPOSURE
TO EVERY
GUN-SIGHT
THE UNDERWORLD
CAN TROT OUT!





WHAT'S THE MATTER, BRUCE? YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'D SEEN A GHOST!

I--I DID! I NEED TIME TO THINK THIS OVER...

COULDN'T POSSIBLY TELL DICK-- BUT MORE INNOCENT LIVES THAN I THOUGHT HINGE ON MY DECISION!



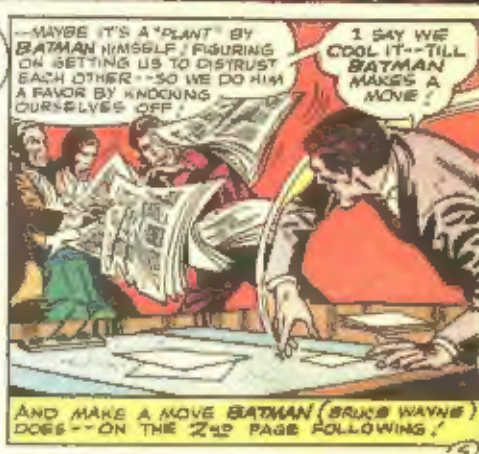
AND IN ANOTHER PART OF GOTHAM, SPOOKS MANSON ALSO FACES A DILEMMA...

OKAY, SPOOKS--A GAG'S A GAG, BUT WHAT'S THIS ABOUT YOU BEIN' BATMAN?



SINCE WHEN DO YOU BELIEVE EVERYTHING YOU READ IN NEWS-PAPERS, HUH?

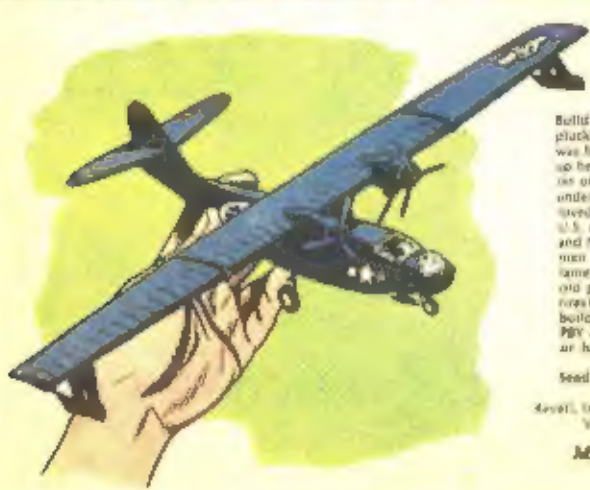
SOME CREEP NEWSHOUND'S IDEA OF A CIRCULATION-GRABBER STORY OR MAYBE--



--MAYBE IT'S A 'PLANT' BY BATMAN HIMSELF, FIGURING ON GETTING US TO DISTRUST EACH OTHER--SO WE DO HIM A FAVOR BY KNOCKING OURSELVES OFF!

I SAY WE COOL IT--TILL BATMAN MAKES A MOVE!

AND MAKE A MOVE BATMAN (BRUCE WAYNE) DOES--ON THE 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING!



PLUCK

Built her, yourself! She's the plucky Navy PBY, and plucking downed pilots out of the sea during WWII was her specialty. She'd flop down on the water, pick up her boys, and off she'd fly again... all within a matter of seconds and a few hundred feet, and sometimes under direct enemy fire. No wonder so many fliers loved her. She was also the first flying boat to span the U.S. and help to explore unknown regions of the Arctic and New Guinea. And in WWII she led mines, ferried men and supplies, and was a patrol bomber of the famed Black Cat Squadron. You can't seem to keep the old girl down. Now she's hard at work, fighting forest fires! We think you'll learn to love her too, as you build Revell's beautifully authentic model of the classic PBY Catalina. She sells for under \$2.00, wherever toys or hobbies are sold.

Send 25¢ for new 1985 color catalog of Revell kits. Revell, Inc., 4104 Glendon Ave., Venice, California 90291



March, 1985 • Model of the Month
PBY-3A Catalina



I HAVE IT. IT'S THE ONLY WAY!

I WANT NO INTERFERENCE, HOWEVER WELL-INTENTIONED, FROM YOU TWO. NO ATTEMPT TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME--WHATEVER HAPPENS.

YOU'LL NEXT HEAR FROM ME--WHEN THE WORLD DOES!



TWO TENSE DAYS LATER...

OKAY, SCRIBE--WISE GUY! HOW COME THIS SCOOP APPEARS IN THE GOTHAM GUARDIAN--THE OPPOSITION PAPER?

CAUSE, CHIEF, WE'RE A WEEKLY! AND SO WHAT! I CALLED THE SHOT, DIDN'T I?



WHILE IN THE WAYNE MANSION...

NO WORD FROM BRUCE YET, ALFRED! I'M WORRIED STIFF! ANYTHING IN THE MORNING PAPER?

IT DIDN'T ARRIVE THIS MORNING, MASTER DICK. CALLED THE HOME DELIVERY--SAID THEY'RE ALL SOLD OUT! ODD...



ODD? IT MAY BE CATASTROPHIC! OUTSIDE OF A MAJOR DISASTER ONLY ONE THING COULD--

CLICK



TO RECAP, THE MOMENTOUS NEWS OF THE DAY IS BATMAN'S BOMBHELL ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TONIGHT, OVER ALL MAJOR NETWORKS--

THE MASKED MANHUNTER WILL REVEAL HIS TRUE IDENTITY!

IT IS A CATASTROPHE!





H*OW COULD
BRUCE DO
SUCH A THING?
HE MUST KNOW
HE COULD NEVER
GET AWAY WITH--

YES, FRIENDS--
BATMAN IS REALLY
HOWARD HAYES!
A MAN MOST
OF YOU KNOW
ONLY BY
REPUTATION--



THE LAST
PERSON
I'D HAVE
SUSPECTED!



--PASSING OFF
BATMAN TO
THE WORLD
AS HOWARD
HAYES--

THE WIDELY-
KNOWN-- BUT
SELDOM SEEN--
RICHEST MAN IN
THE WORLD!



MEANWHILE, AT SPOOKS MANSON'S PLACE--



WHATTAYAKNOW!
BATMAN-- THE
CAMERA-SHY PLAY-
BOY OF THE WESTERN
WORLD!

NO WONDER HE WAS LENS-SHY
WHAT WITH HIM BEIN' THE
COWLED CRUSADER
ON THE SIDE!

AND BACK AT THE TV STUDIO... I THOUGHT

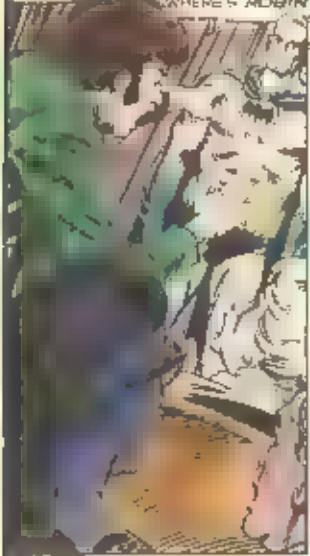


YOU SURE "CALLED THE
SHOT", SCRIBE!
BRO-THER, DID YOU
EVER!

I HAD THE
INSIDE DOPE,
CHIEF! HOW WAS
I TO KNOW--

HIS ENTIRE NEWS PROPHECY AT STAKE
SCRIBE LEAPS TO HIS ATTACK

I CHALLENGE THIS FAKER! HE'S
NONE OF THE MEN I PREDICTED!
IN MY ARTICLE, I SAID IF HE IS BATMAN,
WHERE'S ROBIN?



I MUST RECALIBRATE
THAT BY REVEALING MYSELF,
I BECAME A TARGET FOR
ORGANIZED CRIME. I COULD
NOT ASK ROBIN TO TAKE
THAT RISK



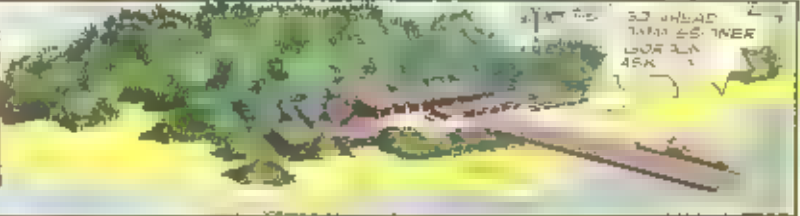
FROM NOW ON, I WORK
ALONE AND ROBIN CAN
LEAD A PEACEFUL, UNMOLESTED
LIFE IN HIS ANONYMITY

WE'LL
SAID
MR. HAYES
STAYED
AS ONLY
BATMAN
A WILD

WELL, COMMISSIONER,
I AM NOT YET
WORKING CLOSEST
WITH BATMAN. I ASK
HIM SOMETHING
ONLY YOU TWO
WOULD KNOW



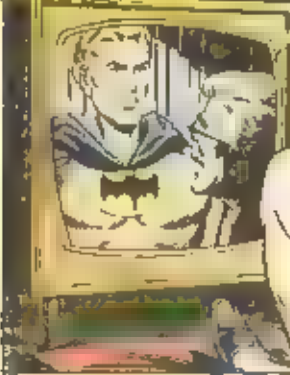
AND
THOUSANDS
FEET AWAY
IN THE
ARBOREAN
IN A
PRIVATE
SLAND



30 FEET
TALLER
FOR AN
ASK

ANOTHER INTERESTED
VIEWER ASKS THE
QUESTION ON A GATEWAY
TO THE PLANET

ALL RIGHT, BATMAN.
OUTSIDE OF OUR HOT
LINE PHONE, WHAT'S
MY PRIVATE UNLISTED
HOME NUMBER?



WELL, LUCKY
I'M NOT IF THERE
GETTING THAT
ROSER

ODDEST SENSATION SEEING
MYSELF LIVE ON TV IN
THAT BATMAN GET UP

BUT BETTER HIM THAN ME
WOULDN'T RELISH SETTING
MYSELF UP AS A TARGET

YOUR JNL STED
NUMBER WOULD
HARDLY REMAIN
PRIVATE IF I
TOLD IT ON
WORLD WIDE TV.
COMMISSIONER

BUT I CAN WRITE
DOWN SO ONLY YOU
CAN SEE

REAL CLEVER BATMAN!
I NEVER SHOULD HAVE
UNDERESTIMATED YOU
WHEN YOU FIRST CAME
TO ME WITH YOUR
SCREWY SCHEME

CORRECT
I DON'T
NEED ANY
FURTHER
CONVINCING NO
BATMAN!

HE CAN HAVE TV
GOTHAM STATE
AND ALL THAT'S
WITH IT LET HIM
PLAY HOWARD
HAYES IS HE
DID DO THIS PUBLIC
FIGURE ROLE

WHILE IN THE
TV STUDIO

YOU AND YOUR BIG
PUBLIC TV STUNTS
I'M RUINED

SCRIBE
YOU'RE
FIRED!

YOU SURE RICH GOTHAM
OF A GOTTEN RAG
BATMAN ER MR
HAYES BUT NOW AM
CONCERNED ABOUT
YOUR SAFETY LET ME
GIVE YOU FINICE
PROTECTION

OH OH THANKS
DAMN ESCHER JORDON
BUT HOW COULD I
FUNCTION WITH AN
ARMY AROUND
ME?

GOING HOME WHERE I CAN GET A
PEACEFUL NIGHT'S SLEEP AND
COMMISSIONER DON'T CALL ME
NO CALL YOU

SOON, AT THE HAYES ESTATE

WELCOME MR H WERE WE
EVER THROWN WHEN YOU
CAME OUT WITH THAT
BATMAN BLOCK-
BUSTER ON TV!

THANKS
FOR THE
ACCOLADES
BOYS JUST MAKE
SURE YOU DON'T
SHOOT ME AS A
PROWLER ONE
N GHT

SURE N-SS DICK AND
ALFRED BUT THEY'LL
HAVE A QUIETER AND
SAFER LIFE WITHOUT
ME!

AND SO WILL HOWARD HAYES!
WITH VERY LITTLE DISGUISE
HE CAN TRAVEL THE GLOBE
INCognito LIVING T UP
WITH ALL HIS MONEY!

WHILE I WAIT--ON A
RAZOR'S EDGE--FOR
THE UNDERWORLD TO
CHOP ME
DOWN

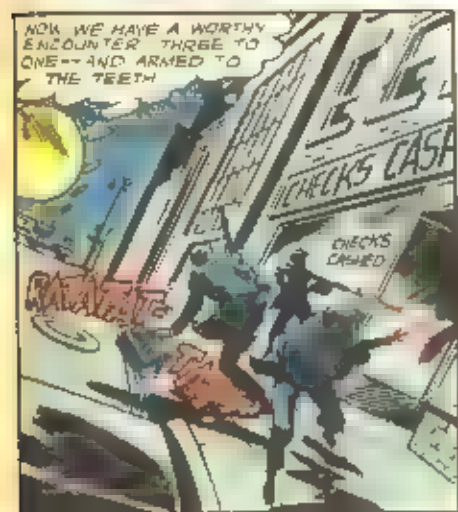
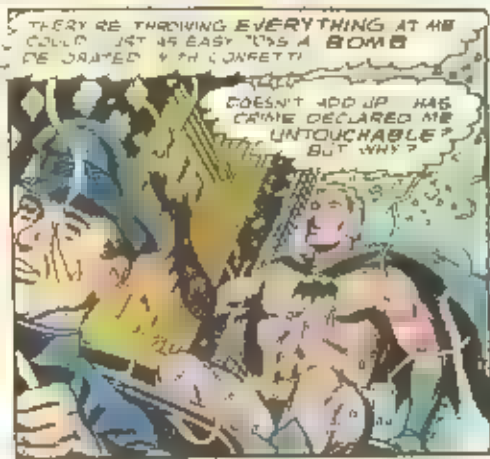
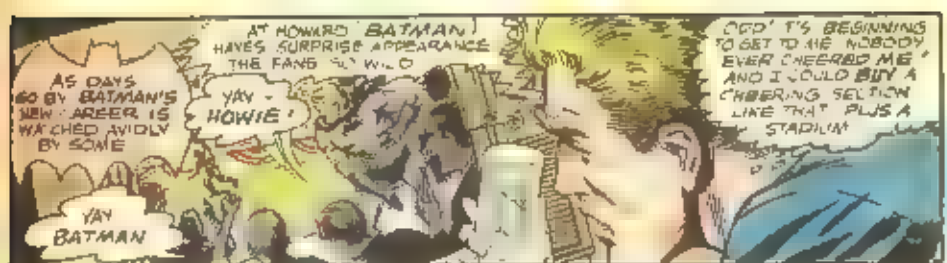
A HAIR WHICH MAY NOT TAKE TOO LONG AS

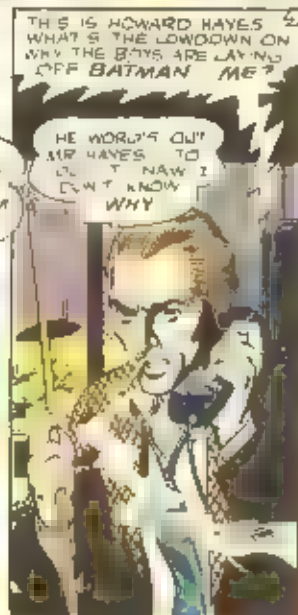
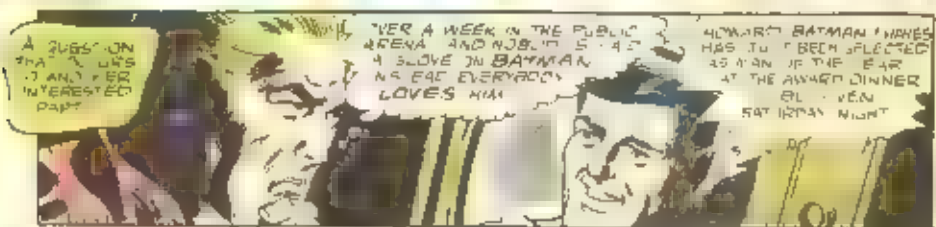
UN'TCHA SEE T
SPOOKS "IT'S A
NATURAL-- A
SET-UP NOW
BATMAN CAN'T
HIDE ANYWHERE
N MORE AS
HOWARD HAYES
HE'S OUT N
THE OPEN

YEAH A PUSH-
OVER FOR A
N'T AND

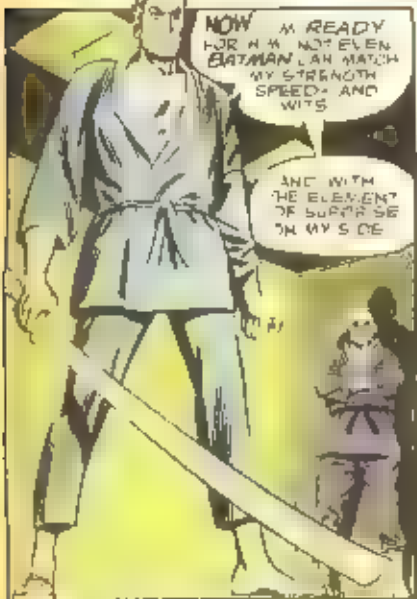
NO "WE'LL JUST ST
ON OUR GUNS AND
COOL T GET THE
WORD AROUND "LET
BATMAN STEW IN
HIS OWN JELLES
I NEED TIME TO
FIGURE HIS
ANGLE"

"AND
THAT'S
WHY I
DON'T
LIKE IT!"



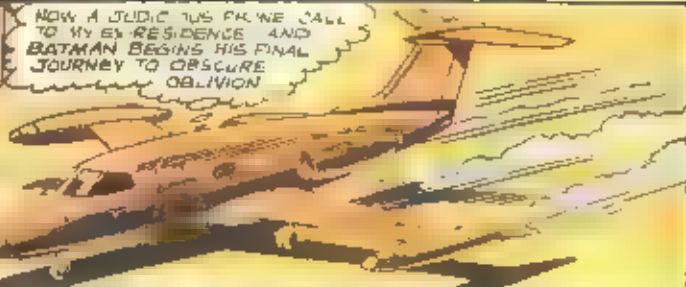


IN THE ENSUING DAYS THE
ATHLETE HOWARD HAYES
BRUSHES UP ON THE DEAD-
EST KILLING TECHNIQUES
KNOWN TO MAN



MANY HOURS
LATER THE
BILLIONAIRE'S
EXEC-JET
LANDS AT
GOTHAM
AIRPORT

NOW A JUDGE HAS CALLED
TO MY RESIDENCE AND
BATMAN BEGINS HIS FINAL
JOURNEY TO OBSCURE
OBLIVION



AND AS "BRUCE" WORKS ON HIS ACCEPTANCE
SPEECH THE PHONE RINGS

BATMAN? I
LESS YOU'RE
WONDERING
WHY WE LET
YOU LIVE
WHILE YOU
CONTINUE TO
INTERFERE
WITH OUR
ACTIVITIES

THAT VOICE SOUNDS
FAMILIAR BUT I
CAN'T PLACE IT

WHO ARE
YOU?



YOU'D NEVER GUESS
BUT IF YOU WANT
TO FIND OUT...

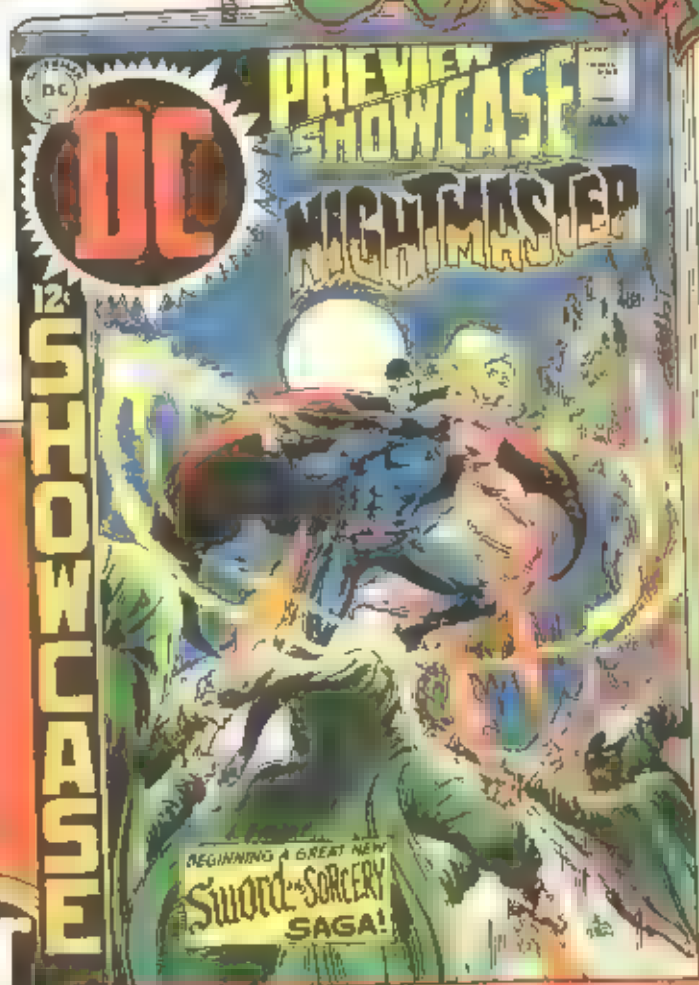
MEET ME
IN ONE HOUR
OUTSIDE HANGAR
7 AT GOTHAM
AIRPORT



THE FOUL TRAP IS LAD WITH BATMAN WALK
INTO IT * WITH BATED BREATH WE PAUSE
FOR 2 PAGES

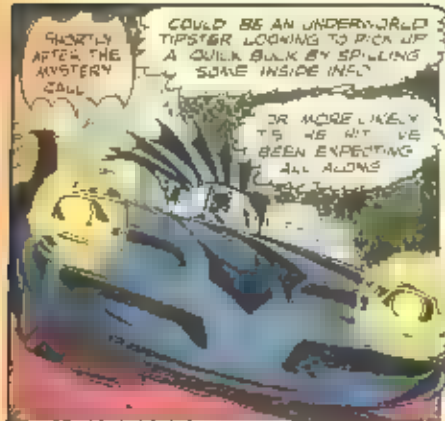


A SAGA OF Sword and SORCERY!



SHOWCASE

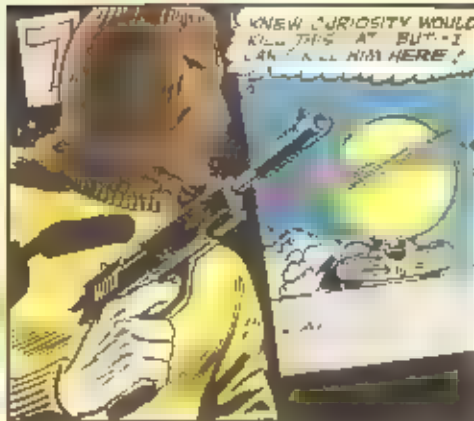
ON
SALE
MARCH
13th



SHORTLY
AFTER THE
MYSTERY
CALL

COULD BE AN UNDERWORLD
TIPSTER LOOKING TO PICK UP
A QUICK BUCK BY SPILLING
SOME INSIDE INFO

OR MORE LIKELY
HE'S NOT HE
BEEN EXPECTING
ALL ALONG



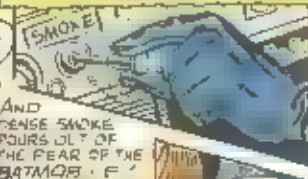
KNEW CURIOSITY WOULD
KILL THIS AT BUT...I
CAN KILL HIM HERE



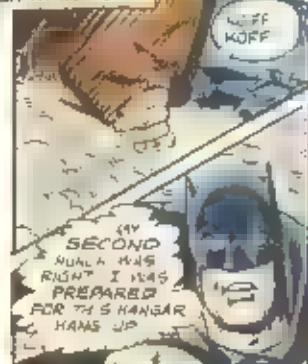
ONE INTENTIONALLY
MISSED SHOT--TO
ALERT HIM THEN
HE'LL FOLLOW ME
TO WHERE I CAN
DISPOSE OF HIM
UNSEEN!

ANY
UNKNOWN
TIPSTER
IS NOWHERE
IN SIGHT
WHICH
MEANS

A PULLED LEVER ON THE DASHBOARD

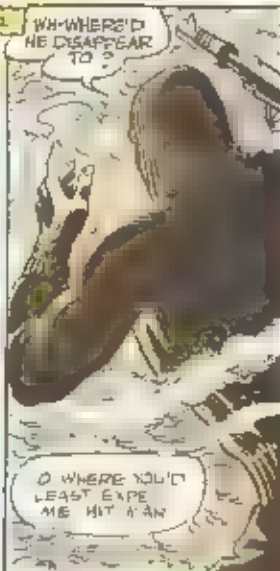


AND
DENSE SMOKE
POURS OUT OF
THE FEAR OF THE
BATMAN



LEFT
KOFF

MY
SECOND
MULH AKA
RIGHT I WAS
PREPARED
FOR THIS HANGAR
HANGS UP



WH-WHERE'D
HE DISAPPEAR
TO?

O WHERE YOU'D
LEAST EXPECT
ME HIT A MAN



YOU'RE GOING TO
EARN YOUR CREDIT
THE HARD WAY

YAWK!

THANKS FOR KNOCKING
THE GUN OUT OF MY
HAND. BATMAN, YOU
FREED BOTH OF THEM
SO I CAN GIVE YOU
MY FULL ATTENTION

BESIDES I
WANTED TO
DO THIS JOB
SILENTLY!

ZUNG!



HAVE TO CHANGE
MY PLAN - FINISH
HIM HERE!
DUMP HIM ELSE-
WHERE

HOLD THAT POSE
BABY YOUR NECK'S
JUST READY FOR
THE CHOPPING
BLOCK!

NEVER DID HAVE
THE PATIENCE
TO POSE! I'M TOO
RESTLESS!

ZAP!

KLANG

There's a
NEW
EXCITEMENT
 about
ADVENTURE
COMING!
 ON SALE MARCH 27th.

Adventure
 featuring SUPERMAN and the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES
 "AMAZING SPACE ODYSSEY OF THE LEGION!"
 "I know I can get you out of this! I'll be right back!"
 "SUPERMAN! GET UP!"

BATMAN **SUPERMAN**
 INVITE YOU TO GET YOUR **FREE COUPON HERE**

ADMIT ONE (1) TO
PALISADES
 AMUSEMENT PARK
 ADMISSION **FREE** PARKING
 WORTH \$1.10 (EXCEPT HOLIDAYS) UNTIL 7PM.
 GOOD MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAYS

PALISADES
 AMUSEMENT **PARK N.J.**
 Opening APRIL 5th
 1/2 MILE SOUTH OF THE GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE

ALL **DC** COMICS IN MAY THROUGH OCTOBER HAVE THE **FREE COUPON!**
 Free Ride **BATMAN SLIDE**
 Free Ride **CAROUSEL**

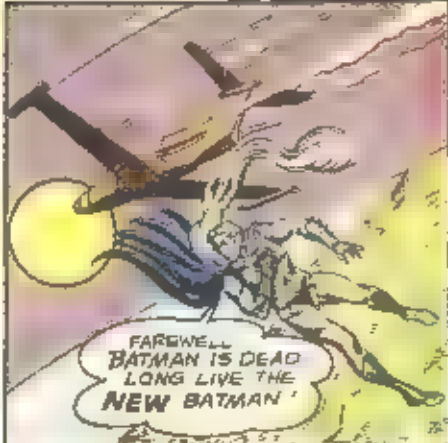


SWITCHING TO AUTOMAT C-PILOT THE IMPOSTOR
REGAINS HIS CAPTIVE AUDIENCE

SHALL BE MY PLEASURE TO
CARRY ON THE MAGNIFICENT
BATMAN TRADITION FOR
YOU A ROLE I'M OBVIOUSLY
WELL EQUIPPED TO TAKE
OVER

YOU'VE BOUND ME--
WITH MY OWN BATROPE!
WHAT DO YOU PLAN--?

TO BURY YOU AND THE
PLANE AT THE BOTTOM
OF THE MID ATLANTIC
AFTER I BAIL OUT
NATURALLY THERE'S
ENOUGH FUEL FOR AN
HOUR'S FLIGHT



AS THE JET BORES RELENTLESSLY ON OVER
THE VAST EXpanse OF NOTHINGNESS THE
MASTER OF ESCAPE STRUGGLES DESPERATELY
AGAINST TIME

IT'S BEGINNING
TO SPUTTER NOT MUCH TIME
TO FREE MYSELF



BUT TIME
THERE ISN'T
AS THE
TURRET'S
FLAME OUT



AND THE JET DIVES STRAIGHT DOWN

FREE!
BUT FOR WHAT?
NO OTHER CHUTE
IN PLANE



THEN SUDDENLY!



AS THE PLUNGING JET IS JOLTED TO A SLOW DESCENT A STUNNED BATMAN LOOKS UP!



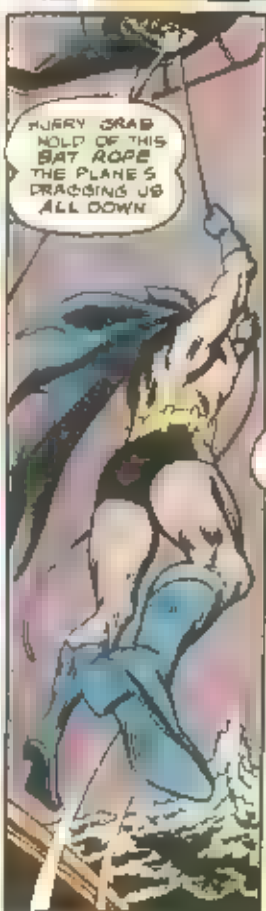
I CAN'T BELIEVE BAT-HOOK!



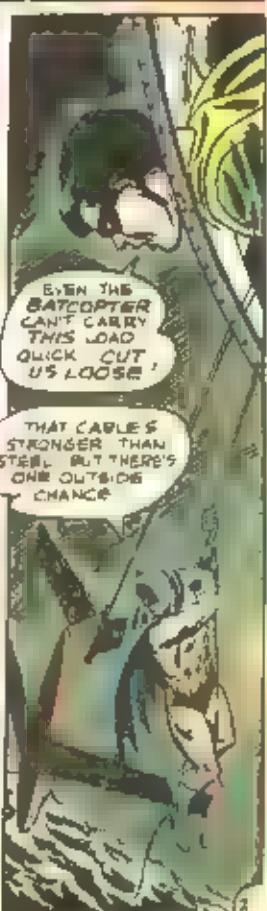
AND ROBIN - ALFRED - IN THE BAT-COPTER

SORRY TO D. SOBEEY ORDERS BATMAN - BUT WE'VE BEEN KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU ALL ALONG

HAD TO GIVE AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE



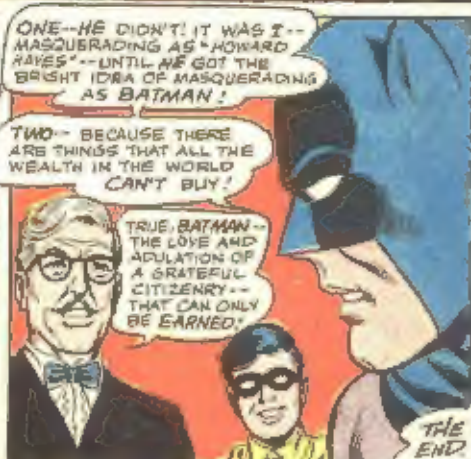
EVERY GRAB HOLD OF THIS BAT ROPE THE PLANE'S DRAGGING US ALL DOWN



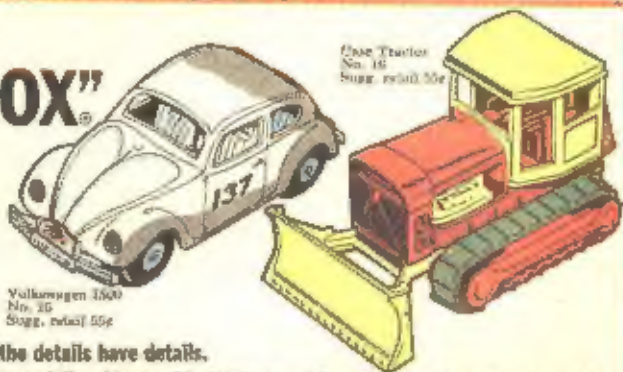
EVEN THE BATCOPTER CAN'T CARRY THIS LOAD QUICK CUT US LOOSE!

THAT CABLES STRONGER THAN STEEL BUT THERE'S ONE OUTSIDE CHANCE





NEW "MATCHBOX" MODELS OF THE MONTH.



On a "MATCHBOX" model even the details have details.

Take a look at the new Volkswagen and Case Tractor. We didn't stop with putting a truck on the tractor. We made it move. We made the VW 1500 really authentic. And then went one step further with an extra sparry touch—a Monte Carlo rally plaque. There are new models out all the time. And to really be a "MATCHBOX" expert, write for the free catalogue:

HASBRO BROYSER CORPORATION, a Division of Leaning Products & Co., Inc., 100 East 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

LETTERS TO THE BATCAVE

S-126

Dear Editor:

One wonders what could make *dragnet* stories, such as "The Doomsday Ball" in *Batman* #207, so absorbing. We know that you can't kill eight million people along with *Batman*, so how can we get worked up about a story in which we know the ending? For one thing, we can marvel at the detective ability *Batman* uses to obtain his clues. We watch the *Dynastic Duo* at their fighting best, and try to match wits with them on how to escape deathtraps. But most of all, we get that feeling of desperation. We start to get impatient and wonder when the *Caped Crusader* is going to meet *Skinny* and receive his big clue. If it were not for that, I think that many stories would come off with a big HO-HUM!

You put in this feeling of anxiety quite well. It took 14 pages before *BM* got his first clue. What was really great was the way you put so many situations in one issue. We had the information of the dilemma, fight scenes with deathtraps, the meeting of *Brill's* district-captains, the search in the *Gotham* alumni area, and meeting *Skinny* (*Skinny*?? Where'd ya get that?), the discovery of the bomb, the showdown with the *Mad Bomber*, and the bomb's deactivation. My compliments to writer Frank Robbins.

I would think that *Skinny's* mother would have called the police or at least started yelling "Bloody Murder!" If the two costumed characters burst in like that, I'd have the police on the phone so fast . . .! Since people in that neighborhood don't have phones, radios, or TV sets, they probably wouldn't know about *Batman* and *Robin*!

One thing more! We never got a look at the *Mad Bomber's* face. The last panels of page 21 showed the true criminal, desperately afraid when cornered. Then fear overcomes them so that they don't know what they're doing.

—JOE KUSNAX, Morville, N.J.
In *stun areas*, you've got to hear the nickname *Skinny* pronounced as *Skinny*. Besides, if you were a swinger at 30 years ago you'd know of *Skinny* Tanis, famous drummer with the Hal Kemp band ("Got a Date With an Angel" . . .) —Editor

Dear Editor:

I was ready to give up on *Batman*. However, as there will always be *Baker Street* regulars, I suppose I will always be a *Batmaniac*.

Your "New-Old-Look" trend starting in *BM* #204 has got me going again. As far as stories go, I can't remember when I enjoyed three better in "Blindman," "Last Mile," and "Deathtrap." These had the mystery, suspense, and detective qualities *Batman* fans like to see. I could elaborate and point out minor faults, etc. These I leave for the other *Bat*-fans who like to see their letters printed. Stories OK—a step in the right direction.

Art: No trade this time. It's not what I want but it'll have to do. You could greatly improve it by having Joe Giella making *Batman's* head a little more square. He always inks *Batman's* head a little too oval-like. Refer to *Batman* #207 at the bottom of pages 10 and 11 for these darn oval-heads. As for Bob Brown in *Detective Comics*, I think you're kidding. If that ain't Bob Kane with a super-ink job, I owe you a huck.

—PITTSBURGH SAM, Pittsburgh, Pa.
(You blew the buck, Pittsburgh Sam—but we'll call it all even if you'll reveal your real name!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

The cover of *Batman* 207 is the only justification I can find for seven pages of fighting which logically should not have taken place. No crime-boss as big as "Big Brill" needs to cringe when *Batman* wants to talk to him, nor would he be so foolish as to direct his henchmen to destroy *Batman* in his own apartment building. He certainly would feel secure enough to face *Batman* without a gun. Perhaps we can understand his panic if the superstitious fear all criminals have for the *Caped Crusader*, but I personally feel that's going a bit too far to justify a "deathtrap" cover which is a take-off of a similar cover a few years back. Neither the cover nor the scene was worth using, since neither idea was clever. (And I'm tired of seeing six guys fringe at close range miss the *Dynastic Duo* completely! It just isn't possible!) May I add, a bit facetiously, that otherwise the story was "just great"?

—IRENE VARTANOFF, Lake Forest, Ill.
(Thanks for your welcome ending, Irene! It caught us by surprise!—Editor)

Dear Editor:

October is always a special time in Rutland, Vermont: October of 1999 promises to be even more so. Why? Well, the 11st of the month marks the 10th "birthday-anniversary" celebration of the annual *Batman*-Halloween Parade. And it bids to be great in the tradition of the past.

Had you been in Rutland this past Halloween, you would have witnessed why *Batman* and Halloween have become synonymous in the Rutland celebration. Chill was in the air, but with the excitement and music, no one minded. Hundreds of all ages came to march in costume and hundreds more lined city byways to watch. Bands played and crowds hurraed as "Gabby" Kessop, wearing the *Batmanian* colors, wheeled the *Bat-Float* out onto the streets.

"BAT POWER!" proclaimed the huge poster backdrop. Pictured in large, colorful splendor was a gigantic *Batman* with swinging, clenched fist; *Robin* in an equally exciting action pose, and *Batgirl*, likewise ready.

Side banners read, "BATMAN FOR PRESIDENT" and "ROBIN FOR VICE PRESIDENT"—"BATGIRL FOR FIRST LADY." And acknowledging the greetings of their fans were all three caped figures, along with *Bat-Mite*, who true to form flittered onto the float just at the last minute. Confronting them was a well-known comic magazine villain who failed to depose *Batman* as parade marshal.

All too soon, the parade was over . . . *Batman*, *Batgirl*, *Robin* were surrounded by hordes of youngsters wanting to shake hands, have pictures taken with their heroes and inquiring the *Bat-Family* share trick 'n' treat goodies.

And for you, curious about such things: Yes, *Batman* did receive a presidential vote or two the following Election Day. It's officially recorded so on Rutland City records.

—TOM FAGAN, Rutland, Vermont

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